

What is claimed is:

1. A checkout system comprising:
 - a computer;
 - 5 a barcode reader coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and
 - a security system coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including
 - 10 a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and
 - a sensor for sensing placement of the item within range of the field generator;
 - 15 wherein the security system initiates display of a message instructing an operator to place the item within a deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement.
 2. The checkout system as recited in claim 1, wherein the sensor is operational only during self-service checkout operation.
 3. A checkout system convertible between assisted-service and self-service checkout operation comprising:
 - a computer;
 - 5 a barcode reader coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and
 - a security system coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

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a field generator for deactivating a security
10 label on the item; and
a pop-up housing moveable between a raised
position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed
position for assisted-service checkout operation;
wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for
15 sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of
the field generator during self-service checkout operation;
and
wherein the security system initiates display of a
message instructing a self-service customer to place the
20 item within the deactivation range of the field generator
until the sensor senses the placement during self-service
checkout operation.

4. A product security system comprising:
a field generator for deactivating a security label on
an item; and
a pop-up housing moveable between a raised position for
5 self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for
assisted-service checkout operation;
wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for
sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of
the field generator during self-service checkout operation;
10 and
wherein the security system initiates display of a
message instructing a self-service customer to place the
item within the deactivation range of the field generator
until the sensor senses the placement during self-service
15 checkout operation.

5. A transaction method comprising the steps of:
reading a barcode label on an item by a barcode reader;
obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader
by a computer;
- 5 activating a field generator for deactivating a
security label on the item by the computer;
determining whether the item comes within a
deactivation range of the field generator by the computer;
and
- 10 if the item does not come within the deactivation
range, initiating display of a message instructing an
operator to place the item within the deactivation range of
the field generator.
6. A transaction method comprising the steps of:
positioning a sensor to identify an item within a
deactivation range of a field generator;
reading a barcode label on the item by a barcode
reader;
- 5 obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader
by a computer;
- obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader
by a computer;
- activating the field generator to deactivate a security
label on the item by the computer;
- 10 determining from the sensor whether the item comes
within the deactivation range of the field generator by the
computer; and
- if the item does not come within the deactivation
range, initiating display of a message instructing an
operator to place the item within the deactivation range of
the field generator.